

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-04

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: AORG, ENRG, PARM, TECH

SUBJECT: US NUCLEAR EXPORT POLICY: RESULTS OF SUPPLIER
CONSULTATIONS

REF: IAEA VIENNA 388

IN RESPONSE TO PARA 4 REFTEL THE FOLLOWING IS PROVIDED FOR
YOUR INFORMATION AND USE AS APPROPRIATE:(SEE LAST PARA FOR
SOURCE OF QUOTE)
BEGIN QUOTE. I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR
AGAIN BEFORE THE COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS NUCLEAR EXPORT MATTERS.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE ALREADY WELL AWARE, FROM MY
OWN PREVIOUS TESTIMONY AS WELL AS FROM A NUMBER OF OFFICIAL
AND UNOFFICIAL SOURCES, THAT WE HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN AN
EFFORT WITH OTHER NUCLEAR EXPORTING COUNTRIES TO DEVISE A
COMMON SET OF STANDARDS CONCERNING SAFEGUARDS AND OTHER
RELATED CONTROLS ASSOCIATED WITH PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPORTS.
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I AM GLAD TO BE ABLE TO REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE THAT WE HAVE
MADE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS.

I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE THAT WHAT IS INVOLVED
HERE IS NOT A SINGLE, SELF-CONTAINED ACTIVITY SEEKING A
PERMANENT SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION,

BUT PART OF AN EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS. THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM, THE TECHNOLOGY WHICH CREATES IT, AND THE POLICIES AND MECHANISMS WHICH WILL BE EFFECTIVE IN DEALING WITH IT, ARE ALL SUBJECT TO CHANGE. IT IS THEREFORE HIGHLY IMPORTANT THAT WE CONTINUE THIS PROCESS AND THAT WE DO NOTHING WHICH MIGHT JEOPARDIZE THE WILLINGNESS OF OTHER COUNTRIES TO CONTINUE THE PROCESS.

FOR REASONS WHICH I AM CONFIDENT THE COMMITTEE WILL UNDERSTAND, I CANNOT DISCUSS IN OPEN SESSION THE POLICIES AND POSITIONS OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS OR THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DISCUSSIONS WE HAVE HAD WITH THEM. THE CONSULTATIONS ARE REGARDED AS SENSITIVE BY A NUMBER OF THE PARTICIPANTS, AND WE HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO PROTECT THEIR CONFIDENTIALITY AND PRIVACY.

AT THE SAME TIME, WE RECOGNIZE THAT CONGRESS HAS A VITAL INTEREST IN WHAT WE ARE DOING. I WOULD LIKE, THEREFORE, TO DESCRIBE IN SOME DETAIL CERTAIN MINIMUM PRINCIPLES WHICH THE U.S. HAS DECIDED TO APPLY TO ITS FUTURE NUCLEAR EXPORTS AS A RESULT OF OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER SUPPLIERS.

THESE PRINCIPLES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

-- THE REQUIREMENT THAT RECIPIENTS MUST APPLY IAEA SAFEGUARDS ON NUCLEAR EXPORTS FROM THE U.S.. THIS INCLUDES FACILITIES AND CERTAIN EQUIPMENT AS WELL AS SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIAL.

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-- THE REQUIREMENT THAT RECIPIENTS GIVE ASSURANCES THAT THEY WILL NOT USE OUR EXPORTS TO MAKE NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES FOR ANY PURPOSE.

-- THE REQUIREMENT THAT RECIPIENTS HAVE ADEQUATE PHYSICAL SECURITY FOR IMPORTED NUCLEAR FACILITIES AND MATERIALS TO PREVENT THEFT AND SABOTAGE.

-- THE REQUIREMENT THAT RECIPIENTS GIVE ASSURANCES THAT THEY WILL ALSO REQUIRE THE ABOVE CONDITIONS ON ANY RETRANSFER OF OUR EXPORTS OR TRANSFERS OF MATERIAL OR EQUIPMENT DERIVED FROM OUR EXPORTS.

IN ADDITION, WITH REGARD TO SENSITIVE EXPORTS (WHICH INCLUDES FUEL ENRICHMENT, SPENT FUEL REPROCESSING, AND HEAVY WATER PRODUCTION):

-- WE INTEND TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT IN SUPPLY OF THESE EXPORTS, PARTICULARLY WHEN WE BELIEVE SUCH EXPORTS WOULD

ADD SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE RISK OF PROLIFERATION.

-- THROUGH OUR SUPPLY CONDITIONS AND OTHER INITIATIVES, WE WILL ENCOURAGE THE CONCEPT OF MULTILATERAL REGIONAL FACILITIES FOR REPROCESSING AND ENRICHMENT SO AS TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF SUCH FACILITIES AND TO SITE SUCH FACILITIES IN ORDER TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE APPLICATION OF SAFEGUARDS AND PHYSICAL SECURITY.

-- IN THOSE CASES WHERE WE EXPORT SENSITIVE FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT AND/OR TECHNOLOGY, WE WILL REQUIRE ASSURANCES FROM RECIPIENTS THAT ANY SENSITIVE FACILITIES BUILT USING TRANSFERRED TECHNOLOGY WILL BE SAFEGUARDED.

-- FINALLY, WE WILL REQUIRE RECIPIENTS TO OBTAIN OUR CONSENT FOR RETRANSFER OF ANY SENSITIVE NUCLEAR MATERIALS
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OR SENSITIVE EQUIPMENT OR TECHNOLOGY TO A THIRD COUNTRY.

THE FOREGOING ARE MINIMUM STANDARDS WHICH THE U.S. WILL APPLY TO ITS NUCLEAR EXPORTS. MOST OF THESE ARE CONSISTENT WITH CURRENT U.S. PRACTICE. IN ADDITION, WE ARE PREPARED TO ADOPT MORE STRINGENT CONSTRAINTS WHEN APPROPRIATE.

AGAIN, I WOULD EMPHASIZE THAT WE VIEW OUR OVERALL NON-PROLIFERATION EFFORTS, OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER CONCERNED COUNTRIES, AND THE RESULTS THAT FLOW FROM THESE AS AN EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS. WE HAVE NO PAT ANSWERS TO THE PROLIFERATION PROBLEM; ONLY A CONVICTION THAT IF WE ARE TO SUCCESSFULLY COPE WITH THE PROBLEM, THE UNITED STATES MUST CONTINUE TO WORK WITH OTHER CONCERNED COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP A FABRIC OF POLITICAL COMMITMENTS, SAFEGUARDS AND CONTROLS ON NUCLEAR EXPORTS. END QUOTE

ABOVE QUOTE IS STATEMENT OF GEORGE S. VEST, DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF POLITICO-MILITARY AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF STATE BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ARMS CONTROL, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND SECURITY AGREEMENTS, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, UNITED STATES SENATE, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1976.

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